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CHUCK HAGEL

P R E S S R E L E A S E



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 19, 2000

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Hagel Holds Press Conference on Lowering Costs of Prescription Drugs for Seniors

Washington — U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) pressed the case today for providing seniors with relief from the costs of prescription drugs, saying he has heard from nearly 1300 constituents on this issue this year.

“The high cost of prescription drugs is an issue I’ve been aware of for some time – my constituents, my mother, my aunts and many others have been coming to me for over a year telling me about the challenges they face,” said Hagel at a press conference in the U.S. Capitol. “So what do we do? How do we lower the cost of prescription drugs for seniors?”

“My colleagues and I have introduced a bill that will address these concerns, without duplicating coverage that already exists in the private sector, while keeping the government out of it. Our plan is responsible and sustainable. It’s not complicated, seniors will be able to easily understand how this bill would benefit them. And we focus on helping the seniors who need this coverage the most,” Hagel added.

Medicare does not provide prescription drug coverage. While two-thirds of seniors have private coverage that includes prescription drugs, approximately 13 million American seniors have to bear 100 percent of their increasing drug costs.

“Our bill provides discounts to seniors for their prescription drugs. Seniors would be able to choose from a variety of prescription discount drug card programs and select the one that best meets their needs. It also places limits on annual out-of-pocket expenses, giving seniors the peace of mind that they won’t face unlimited costs. Seniors with the lowest incomes would have the lowest overall costs. And we do this without adding new monthly premiums,” said Hagel.

The following Senators are cosponsors of Hagel’s legislation: Spencer Abraham (R-MI), John Ashcroft (R-MO), Conrad Burns (R-MT), Tim Hutchinson (R-AR), Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and John McCain (R-AZ).